

Anthrax Insert

In light of the recent events involving anthrax being delivered through the mail and the negative effects it has caused among the population. One of the resulting consequences of the bio-terrorism now affecting our nation is how to properly dispose of the waste produced when material such as paper and clothing that are suspected to have come in contact with the anthrax spores.

Anthrax is not a contagious disease. It is caused by a bacteria that can be spread in its dormant, or spore, form and is harmful only if a large enough dose is inhaled, ingested, or introduced into an open cut or wound. Landfill disposal for exposed or potentially exposed materials is safe because the spores are not transmissible to the ground water and the landfill environment is not conducive for their proliferation.

Potentially exposed material can be disposed of in Class II landfills after having been cleared for disposal by local, state or federal law enforcement or public health officials.

Recommended disposal procedures:

- The potentially exposed materials should be placed in a sealed, airtight triple plastic bag (trash bags) before being taken to the landfill.
- The bag should be clearly labeled.
- The bags should be placed in a location so that other solid waste may be pushed over them prior compaction.

For further information please contact Todd Damrow DPHHS State Epidemiologist at (406) 444-3986.